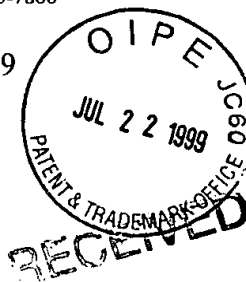


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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
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WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213
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July 22, 1999



BOX CPA

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of de ALMEIDA, ALCINO R.
IMPROVED SEAT FOR GATE VALVE
Our Ref: Q343671

AUG 25 1999
Publishing Division
Corresponding Files (04)

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Dear Sir,

This is a request for filing a Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (continued prosecution application (CPA)) of pending prior Application No. 08/859,353 filed on May 20, 1997 of de ALMEIDA, ALCINO R. entitled IMPROVED SEAT FOR GATE VALVE.

This application is being filed under 37 CFR § 1.53(d). The prior application, in which no payment of the issue fee, abandonment, or termination of proceedings has occurred, is hereby expressly abandoned as of the filing date of this new application. It is understood that secrecy under 35 USC § 122 is hereby waived to the extent that if information or access is available to any one of the applications in the file jacket, be it either this application or a prior application in the same file jacket, the Patent and Trademark Office may provide similar information or access to all the other applications in the same file jacket.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 3407

The power of attorney appears in the original papers of the prior application.

Priority is claimed from January 27, 1993 based on Brazil Application No. 9300292. The priority document was filed in parent Application No. 08/186,469.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	1 - 20	=		x	\$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	1 - 3	=		x	\$78.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee							\$760.00

TOTAL FILING FEE

\$760.00

A check for the statutory fee of \$760.00 is attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire

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760.00 DP

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BOX CPA

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

July 22, 1999

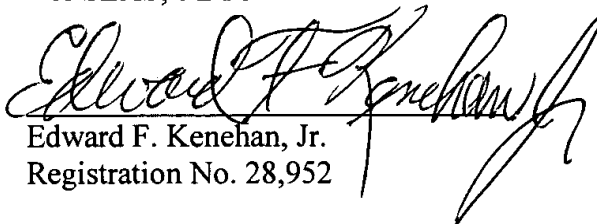
Page 2

pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK
& SEAS, PLLC



Edward F. Kenehan, Jr.
Registration No. 28,952